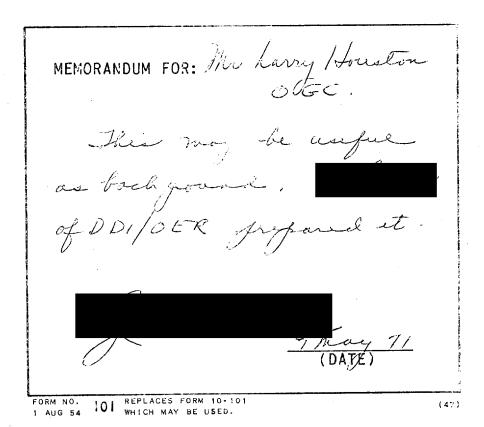
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COURSES OF SECE MESCHAM COLORS OF FIRST 1971

The Jack Anderson column in the Vashington Fost on 5 May 1971 allows CIA involvement in the heroin trailed between Loss and South Victoria. The auticle also dwells upon the suspected culpability of high level military and government officials of those countries in the narcotics trailed. The of the charges made by Mr. Accerson appear unfounded while others can be readily documented.

Mr. Anderson states that CIA's Air Aperica aircraft have been used to transport drugs from northern loss to Vienticae. He does camit, however, that there is no evidence of official CIA policy in support of this all jation. The article then describes low the "deadly drug is transported I have opins fields in Laco to the bottlefields of South Victoria". According to Darra and into the Laction town of for Bouci Cal [Sic] with former dad to deist Chinese soldiers turned dray emegalers riding showin on the chips the At Ben Dougl Soi /Sic/ the Laction city contender, Control Own Reliables takes over. He supervises the shippent of opium into Vientione, wells American-supplied plenes and proveduing the sangeled cargoes with U.S. C. 1. 1100 erms". The article them goes on to state that, "once it reaches then into the corphine base is processed in Constal Rathikoun's labs into label that heroin". In. Anderson also claims that the heroin operation throughout thes is "protected and abetted" by Frince Bonn Om, Inspector General of Lie. It is then alleged that the processed heroin is flown into Bowth Viet at abourd military and civilian aircraft and that "some of the corefully to got packages of the white powder are air dropped near U.S. troop employers and in the fields" or, "reaches the troops after being landed at outlying al or flown directly into Soigon's Tansonmint disport". Here the hording the into illicit chammels with "Vietnimese custom officials looking the other way". The erticle identifies South Vietnomene Premier Tran Thien Mohn, "or the kin behind the corruption of the customs agents".

With respect to the Anderson article, the following points can be under

A. While it is possible that some marcotics have been simpled account Air America sircraft at one time or emother, investigations revealed at culpibility on the part of the miritime. In the opinion of a Special Investigative Teem which undertook a therough examination of the situation leader gative Teem which undertook a therough examination of the situation leader. July and September 1969, "Air Incria, The. was not used as a smeath account to move of house, poor handling of commercial campo and the lexity of Lao court of combrols in Vientiane and Pakee with respect to the operation of North har combrols in Vientiane and Pakee with respect to the operation of North har Laos aircraft provided opportunities for smaggling contraband absent the Thights. There have been negatives reports involving planes of Royal I to Laos and the Reyal Laotian Air Force in the sarrectic traffic of Southeast I had. Those aircraft were originally supplied by the U.S. but are not under U.S. control.

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- R. Raw opium is not hawled from deep in Laos through Berms into III Housi Esi (not Ban Bouei Esi). In earlier years opium grown in northern Laos was transported to nearby village markets where it was purchased by Chinese merchants who then shipped it down to the refineries along the a conjunct. These shipments never transited Burms. However, the major opinitaroducing areas of northern Laos, i.e., Phong Esly, Nieng Khowang, and a shipped it have since fallen under the control of the Pathet Lao and North 1111-nomese. Opium production in these areas is will being encouraged by the Communists although the market for the heroin reportedly produced them. Is not known. Most of the opium reaching couthern Laos today is produced in Burms and escorted to the Mekong River refineries by Chinese irregular, and members of Burmses Self-Defense Forces.
- C. General Owene Rathikoun is substantially involved in the narealles traffic of Lacs. His role is believed to be that of a protector rather when an owner although a syndicate headed by him was reportedly purchasing resorted through 1969. The products of the Mekong refineries are usually transcented to the vicinity of Dan Houel Sai under the protection of General Fatheries and and placed abourd aircraft of the Royal Loction Air Force and flown to lientiane, Savannakhet, Pakse, and Luang Probang.
- D. Although the processing of morphine base into #4 heroin may told place in Vientiane, we have no information connecting General Rathikout with this operation.
- R. We have no information supporting the allegation that Prince John Cun is involved in the heroin operation.
- F. It is doubtful that a product as valuable as herein would be dropped or landed near V.S. troop emplacements for security reasons. Thesever, narcotics are reaching South Vietness through flights into Tansonnhae admiral in Salgon where customs officials appear to be either incompetent or craminally involved.
- G. We have no information to connect Premier Tran Thien Kheim with the corruption of custom agents.

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